

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-7, 11-15 and 17-30 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18, 25, 27 and 29-30 are amended, and claims 26 and 28 are cancelled, herein.

Claims 17, 18, 27, 29, and 30 are independent.

The courtesy of the Examiner Interview held on January 31, 2008 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 3-7, 11-15, and 17-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Cannon (US 2002/0177483) in view of newly cited and applied Cole (US 2004/0137978).

With regard to claims 26 and 28, the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. The other independent claims have been amended to further clarify those features that distinguish over the applied prior art and/or correct obvious editorial errors. Claim 25 is amended in view of the amendment of its parent claim.

As amended, each of independent claims 17, 18, 27 and 29-30 requires that acceptance of bets for play of a second game controlled by a second game machine by a player at the first game machine be performed by the controller of the first game machine. It is respectfully submitted that Cole, and therefore the applied prior art combination, lacks any teaching or suggestion of such a feature.

More particularly, in paragraphs 119 and 120, Cole discloses that, in embodiments having two separate, linked game machines (each of which controls play of a different game), and a common device for entering bets on either of the different games at the game machine at which the player is stationed, if the entered bet is on the game controlled by the other game machine (at which the player is not stationed), that bet is simply transferred to the other game machine which implicitly must accept or reject the bet.

It is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in Cole's disclosure to suggest that the game machine at which the player is stationed can accept a bet entered at that machine to play a game controlled by another separate game machine. Rather, what is implicit in Cole's disclosure is that the game machine which controls play of the game always is also the game machine which accepts

or rejects bets on the game it controls.

However, even if this were not the case, the present independent claims as amended herein also require the communication of data for establishing a bet acceptance criteria, such as a period of time for accepting a bet, from the game machine that controls the play of the game to the game machine at which the player is stationed and at which that game will be played by the player, and the use of this communicated data by the game machine at which the player is stationed to determine whether or not to accept the player's bet on the game controlled by the other game machine.

It is respectfully submitted that Cole, and hence the applied combination, lacks any suggest of such communications between a game machine controlling play of a game and another game machine which receives a bet on that game.

Additionally, the communicated data is further defined in some of the independent claims (i.e. claims 29 and 30) to be directives to initiate and end a bet acceptance period.

Here again, it is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of art fails to suggest that one game machine give directives to initiate and end a bet acceptance period to another game machine.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No.1227.43716x00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,  
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